Asthma Rates among Children of Smokers and Nonsmokers

According to the 2003 National Survey of Children’s Health (the most recent year data are available)\(^1\), 12.5% of children ages 0–17 had asthma. All three states in the Greater Cincinnati region had higher rates than the national average. In 2005, 13.9% of primary caregivers of children in Greater Cincinnati had been told their child had asthma, according to the Child Well-Being Survey.

**Children in households that include a current smoker**

Nationally, about 3 in 10 households with children (29.5%) also include someone who is a current smoker\(^1\). Indiana (37.3%), Kentucky (45.2%), and Ohio (38.4%) are among the top 10 states with the highest rates of children in households that also include a current smoker. Kentucky has the highest rate in the nation.

According to the 2005 Greater Cincinnati Community Health Status Survey, 35.2% of respondents living in households with children were current smokers\(^2\). The Community Health Status Survey did not ask whether other adults in the household were current smokers, only if the survey respondent was a current smoker. Therefore, some Greater Cincinnati children may be living in households where other adults besides the respondent smoke.

**Asthma rates among children in households with a current smoker**

Nationally, the asthma rate for children living in a household with a current smoker is 14.2%, compared to 11.8% of children living in a household without a smoker. Asthma rates in Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio of children in households with a current smoker were higher than the national average. According to the 2005 Child Well-Being Survey, the asthma rate of Greater Cincinnati children whose primary caregiver was a current smoker was 15.7%, compared to 13.3% for children whose primary caregiver was a nonsmoker.


\(^2\) Regional data on households with a smoker are from The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati’s 2005 Greater Cincinnati Community Health Status Survey, available at http://www.healthfoundation.org/gcchss.html.